

June 13, 2014

Weekly Views

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon attended an education graduation at Putnamville Correctional Facility. Various vocational programs such as Culinary Arts, Business Technology, Horticulture, and Automotive Technology were congratulated as well as Test Assessing Secondary Completion graduates with future plans for reentry. Families of the graduates also came out to enjoy the celebration and see the students' accomplishment. (photo right)

Several staff members from Reception Diagnostic Center (RDC) and members of their families volunteered at the

Special Olympics Summer Games in Terre Haute, IN. RDC staff members volunteered at a food booth and helped serve bananas, bottled water, granola bars, popsicles, smoothies, popcorn, and snow cones to athletes and spectators. More than 2,500 athletes participated in the games, while nearly 1,200 volunteers helped make the games possible. In the last two years, RDC staff have donated over \$4300 to Special Olympics Indiana (SOI) by participating in the Plane Pull and Polar Plunge. This year, RDC staff have already raised over \$2400 for the Plane Pull in September.



The Wabash Valley and Rockville Correctional Facilities teamed up for the annual Special Olympics Torch Run, which marked the official start of the Special Olympic Summer Games on the Indiana State University campus. Wabash Valley (WVCF) Superintendent Richard Brown helped set the pace before joining volunteers from both facilities at the Bocce Ball courts. "We thoroughly enjoy taking part in the run and interacting with these very special athletes competing in Bocce Ball," noted Superintendent Brown. WVCF Maintenance staff made 12 new courts last year for Special Olympics Indiana, funded by offender donations. (photo left)

Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted a Job Fair at the Pendleton Complex Training Center attracting several applicants. Custody staff were present to answer questions about the facility and to assist individuals with the application process.



Following the application and interview process, qualified applicants were provided a tour of the facility to give them the opportunity to experience a prison environment.

Twenty-three offenders who graduated from the PACER Extended Learning Program at Indiana State Prison (ISP) were honored at a luncheon prepared by the Grace Culinary Arts class. The PACER Extended Learning Program is an outreach ministry offered by Grace College. Speakers included ISP Superintendent William Wilson and Grace College staff and administrators Paul Petroff, John Teevan, Dennis Duncan, Steve Klosowski, and Jack Volkers.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility was proud to host a graduation ceremony for four students; three recently passed the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and one completed her high school graduation requirements. Madison's Mayor Damon Welch delivered a touching address to the students, sharing many of his own life experiences and focusing on the fact that everyone experiences difficulties in life. The graduates also delivered a message of their own. One student expressed her feelings that everything happens for a reason and if she hadn't made the mistakes she made to come to MJCF, she would never have had the motivation to finish high school. Another student said she has chosen to live each day in "the dash", that time between life and death dates on a tombstone, so that everyone will remember her love of music and how she worked hard and made good grades. All of the graduates have plans to continue their education. Several family members were able to make the trip and share the day with their children. All enjoyed a reception and some visit time following the ceremony.

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) hosted its fifteenth Kairos weekend. The weekend worship included forty offender participants, forty volunteers, previous Kairos participants and many additional guests. The weekend program is followed by monthly reunions. These reunions bring volunteers and offenders back together to share their journeys. Reunions also keep both offenders and volunteers focused upon spiritual and practical growth.



The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) welcomed the Revival in Prison Ministry for an old fashioned tent revival that included three services of prayer, music and fellowship on each of the three days with an open invitation to the offender population. Roughly 600 offenders participated in the revival each day sharing their laughter, tears, reflections on the mistakes they've made, and inspirations and aspirations for current and future self-improvement. The Revival in Prison Ministry is based in Sullivan, IN and is led by David and Debbie Brewer. David retired from IDOC after serving the religious needs of the offender population at Wabash Valley. Joining David and Debbie were 19 volunteers who were instrumental in making this, the fourth consecutive tent revival at RCF, a resounding success. Additionally, an offender volunteer work crew from the RCF Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) Program assisted with setting up the tent and chairs and assisting with various other errands throughout the weekend. (photo above)